

The Applicant believes that no extension of time is required since this response is being filed before the expiration of the specified time period. The Applicant, however, conditionally petitions for an extension of time to provide for the possibility that such a petition has been inadvertently overlooked and is required. As provided below, charge Deposit Account **04-1105** for any required fee.

Please amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the following claim to read:

2. (Thrice Amended) A stiff, metallic hub for an energy storage device, having a flywheel assembly, wherein the hub produces a critical velocity that exceeds a design operating speed of the flywheel assembly, the stiff, metallic hub comprising:
- a central core in tight interference fit with a rotary shaft of the flywheel assembly;
 - an outer rim section in tight interference fit with a high-strength, low-density composite fiber rim of the flywheel assembly; and
 - a substantially planar web section,
- wherein the web section is integrally formed to the central core and the outer rim section.

REMARKS

Claims 2 through 13 are pending in the subject application. Claims 2-7 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Claims 2-5, 8-11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 2-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 2 has been amended.